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accuses me of neglecting absolutely necessary factors in the investigation.

For all practical purposes we may deny at once the fundamental assumption on which the doctrine of probabilities is applied to the problem. That all things are equally possible can not be true of alliteration, since number of words beginning with each initial, and especially choice of words as to meaning and context insuperably stand in the way. It was, indeed, only because the reasoning of Frucht had been adopted by such an accurate scholar as Sievers, that it seemed worth while to treat it seriously and expose its fallacy in various ways. On this account alone I undertook to show the *reductio ad absurdum* by examining the initial of the fourth stressed syllable in other cases than the one in dispute. If chance, as Frucht assumed, affected the fourth syllable in the alliterative line, it must have affected the same syllable in every other line, and an examination of the inevitable results of this assumption is not "inapplicable because it introduces an entirely different kind of reasoning." Indeed, Professor Lewis shows that he does not consider it inapplicable, by arguing later against my statistics as merely showing "runs of luck." The evident inconsistency of the two positions may be passed over, but it remains with Professor Lewis to prove his assertion regarding the latter. The examples were selected at random and in sufficient numbers to satisfy myself, and Professor Lewis's assertion, unsupported by facts, does not disturb me. When he presents such facts it will be time enough to ask that he establish his position regarding the applicability of the theory of probabilities to such a problem, by proving that mere chance accounts for the initials of words in poetry or any other form of speech. Before that is done references to the throwing of dice are of no value, unless serving to illustrate the frequently fatal recourse to the argument from analogy.

OLIVER FARRAR EMERSON.

Western Reserve University.

PETSCHAFT.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—In his book "The Practical Study of

Languages," p. 110, Sweet says of this word and of "Hornung": "To the present day I cannot remember having met with either of them in any Modern German book, still less of ever having heard them in conversation." This is an extraordinary statement. "Petschaft" occurs in Heine's "Reisebilder," a very popular text. See Heine's Werke, Hamburg, 1867, Vol. i, p. 26. As to its being used in the spoken language, I can testify that it is in common use in my home, Vilsen in the province of Hanover.

H. C. G. BRANDT.

Hamilton College.

LYCIDAS 113 ff.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—A parallel to Milton's invective against the clergy occurs in Bale's characterization of John Capgrave (*Script. Illus.*, p. 582, translated):

"It was his wont to thunder against the wanton and arbitrary acts of prelates who enlarged the borders of their garments beyond measure, catching at the favor of the ignorant herd; not shepherds, but hirelings, who leave the sheep to the wolves, caring only for the milk and fleece; robbers of their country and evil workers, to whom truth is a burden, justice a thing to scorn, and cruelty a delight."

ALBERT S. COOK.

Yale University.

OBITUARY.

FITZEDWARD HALL,
C.E., M.A., D.C.L., LL.D.

FITZEDWARD HALL was born at Troy, N. Y., March 21, 1825, and died at Marlesford, England, February 1, 1901. He attended schools at Troy, Walpole, N. H., and Poughkeepsie, and took his first degree in 1842 at the Rensselaer Polytechnic. Joining the Harvard class of 1846, he had for associates Geo. F. Hoar, C. E. Norton, F. J. Child, Charles Short, G. M. Lane, and W. T. Harris. A

1 Also in Thuringia. H. K. S.